

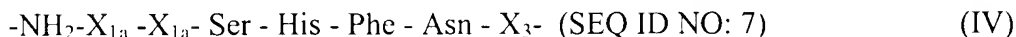
IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please enter the following replacement paragraphs at page 20, line 12 to page 22, line 2:

--In one embodiment the TGF- α polypeptide, related polypeptide, mimetic or functional fragment is a TGF- α polypeptide as set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, or a TGF α mimetic selected from the group consisting of formula I, formula II, formula III, formula IV, or formula V, wherein formula I is:



wherein R_1 is $-NH_2$, or R_1 is R_3-X_3 , wherein R_3 is a polyethylene glycol (PEG) attached to the free NH_2 moiety of X_3 (wherein X_3 is Lys or Asp) and having a molecular weight of PEG of from about 2000 daltons to about 10,000 daltons, or one or more of the following seven amino acids from formula IV, including either L (natural) or D chiral orientations:



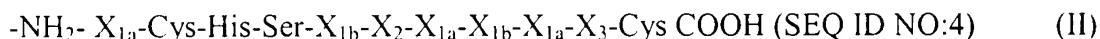
wherein X_{1a} is independently Val, Gly or Ala and X_3 is Lys or Asp;

wherein T is the native sequence of human TGF α (SEQ ID NO. 1) from amino acid residue no. 8 (Cys) to amino acid residue no. 43 (Cys) consisting of native L amino acids; and wherein R_2 is $-COOH$ or one of more of the following seven amino acids, including either L (natural) or D chiral orientations, from formula V:



wherein X_4 is Glu or Asp, wherein X_5 is Leu or Ile, wherein X_6 is Asp or Glu, and wherein X_{1c} is independently Val, Gly, or Ala.

The invention provides a peptide having TGF- α biological activity, comprising at least an 11-membered peptide compound of formula II:



wherein X_{1a} and X_{1b} are independently Val, Gly, or Ala, wherein X_2 is Tyr or Phe, wherein X_3 is Arg or Lys, and wherein the two Cys moieties form a disulfide bond to create an 11-amino-acid functional peptide having a 10 member loop structure. In addition, at least one or more of the following amino acids of formula III may be added to the C terminus Cys moiety of formula II:

- X₄ - His - X_{1c} - X₄ - X₅ - X₆ - X_{1c} (SEQ ID NO: 5) (III)

wherein X₄ is Glu or Asp, wherein X₅ is Leu or Ile, wherein X₆ is Asp or Glu and wherein X_{1c} is Val, Gly or Ala. Preferably, X_{1a} is Val, X_{1b} is Gly and X_{1c} is Ala thereby producing an 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 or 18 amino acid peptide. Preferably, X₂ is Tyr, and X₃ is Arg. Accordingly, in one embodiment the functional peptide of the invention has a sequence:

NH₂-X_{1a}-Cys-His-Ser-X_{1b}-X₂-X_{1a}-X_{1b}-X_{1a}-X₃-Cys-X₄-His-X_{1c}-X₄-X₅-X₆-X_{1c}-COOH (SEQ ID NO:6)

SEQ ID NO: 6 forms a 10 member loop structure with a 7 member tail that can be varied in length. In addition, SEQ ID NO: 6 can form dimmers comprising, for example, a 34-mer peptide. Accordingly, the functional peptide can be from about 10 to 18 amino acids in length (*e.g.* 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, or 18 amino acids) wherein X_{1a} is Val, X_{1b} is Gly, X_{1c} is Ala and X₄ is Glu and may also comprise hetero- or homo-dimers of various TGF- α peptides described herein. Such dimmers may have greater or reduced activities as compared to monomers.

The invention further provides an active TGF- α 57 polypeptide (SEQ ID NO:3), wherein TGF- α 57 is a 57 amino acid polypeptide having the formula VI:

Ser - Leu - Ser - Leu - Pro - Ala - Met - Human TGF α (SEQ ID NO: 3) (VI)

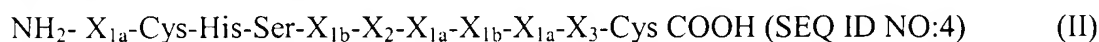
Wherein human TGF α is a 50 amino acid polypeptide having a sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.--

Please enter the following replacement paragraphs at page 52, lines 1-27:

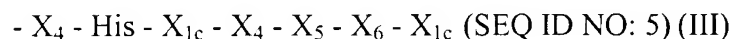
--The invention further provides a bifunctional compound that acts as a TGF α mimetic, comprising a compound of formula III:

Loop peptide N-terminus-linker-cyclic C₄H₈N₂- linker- Loop peptide N-terminus (VII)

Wherein the linker moiety is designed to link the N-terminus of the Loop peptide to a nitrogen atom of the ring $C_4H_8N_2$ and wherein the "loop peptide" comprises at least an 11-membered peptide compound of formula II:



wherein X_{1a} and X_{1b} are independently Val, Gly, or Ala; X_2 is Tyr or Phe; X_3 is Arg or Lys; and the two Cys moieties are linked via a disulfide bond to form an at least 11-amino acid functional peptide having TGF- α activity. Preferably, at least one or more of the following amino acids are added to the C terminus Cys moiety from formula III, below:



wherein X_4 is Glu or Asp, wherein X_5 is Leu or Ile, wherein X_6 is Asp or Glu and wherein X_{1c} is Val, Gly or Ala. Preferably, X_{1a} is Val, X_{1b} is Gly and X_{1c} is Ala. Preferably the linker group is independently selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-6} alkoxy, xylenyl, wherein the substitutions are selected from the group consisting of: oxo, epoxy, hydroxyl, chloryl, bromyl, fluoryl, and amino. Preferably, X_2 is Tyr, and X_3 is Arg. Most preferably, the functional peptide is 18 amino acids in length wherein X_{1a} is Val, X_{1b} is Gly, X_{1c} is Ala and X_4 is Glu.--